

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-]

**Proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General
Permits for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activities--Extension of
Comment Period**

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On December 20, 2002 (67 FR 78116), EPA published a notice of the availability of the proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permits for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activities and requested comments on the draft by February 3, 2003. The purpose of this notice is to extend this comment period to February 13, 2003.

DATES: Comments on the proposed general permits must be received by February 13, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted electronically, by mail, or through hand delivery/courier. Send written comments to: Follow the detailed instructions as provided in Section I.B.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jack Faulk, Office of Wastewater Management, Office of Water, EPA Headquarters at tel.: 202-564-0768 or e-mail: faulk.jack@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. How Can I Get Copies Of This Document and Other Related Information ?

1. *Docket.* EPA has established an official public docket for this action under Docket ID No. OW-2002-0055. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Water Docket in the EPA Docket Center, (EPA/DC) EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC. A copy of both the proposed permit and fact sheet are available for viewing and downloading from the Water Docket. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Water Docket is (202) 566-2426.

2. *Electronic Access.* You may access this Federal Register document electronically through the EPA Internet under the “Federal Register” listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA’s electronic

public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once in the system, select “search,” then key in the appropriate docket identification number.

B. How and To Whom Do I Submit Comments?

You may submit comments electronically, by mail, or through hand delivery/courier. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate docket identification number in the subject line on the first page of your comment. Please ensure that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the close of the comment period will be marked “late.” EPA is not required to consider these late comments.

1. *Electronically.* If you submit an electronic comment as prescribed below, EPA recommends that you include your name, mailing address, and an e-mail address or other contact information in the body of your comment. Also include this contact information on the outside of any disk or CD ROM you submit, and in any cover letter accompanying the disk or CD ROM. This ensures that you can be identified as the submitter of the comment and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties or needs further information on the substance of your comment. EPA’s policy is that EPA will not edit your comment, and any identifying or contact

information provided in the body of a comment will be included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment.

i. *EPA Dockets.* Your use of EPA's electronic public docket to submit comments to EPA electronically is EPA's preferred method for receiving comments. Go directly to EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>, and follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once in the system, select "search," and then key in Docket ID No. OW-2002-0055. The system is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity, e-mail address, or other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment.

ii. *E-mail.* Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to ow-docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket ID No. OW-2002-0055. In contrast to EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system is not an "anonymous access" system. If you send an e-mail comment directly to the Docket without going through EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system automatically captures your e-mail address. E-mail addresses that are automatically captured by EPA's e-mail system are included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket.

iii. *Disk or CD ROM.* You may submit comments on a disk or CD ROM that you mail to the mailing address identified in Section I.B.2. These electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect or ASCII file format. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

2. *By Mail.* Send the original and three copies of your comments to: “Water Docket, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode: 4101T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20460, Attention Docket ID No. OW-2002-0055.

3. *By Hand Delivery or Courier.* Deliver your comments to: Public Reading Room, Room B102, EPA West Building, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004, Attention Docket ID No. OW-2002-0055. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket’s normal hours of operation as identified in Section I.A.1.

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C. What action is being taken?

The comment period for the construction general permits is being extended for ten days until February 13, 2003, in response to requests from the National Association of Homebuilders, the National Mining Association, and the Associated General Contractors of America. After the close of the public comment period, EPA will issue a final permit decision. This decision will not be made until after public comments have been considered and appropriate changes made to the permit.

Dated:

G. Tracy Mehan, III

Assistant Administrator for Water